

Repairing Women's Lives



Rwanda

While the birth of a child can be a joyful event, for Esther it was the end of her marriage and, she thought, her future.

During childbirth, Esther suffered an obstetric fistula, a hole in the birth canal, which caused her to leak urine constantly. The dampness and stench were always present; her husband left, friends and family stayed away. Then a radio announcement alerted Esther to a visiting team of surgeons who, using donated medicines and supplies from AmeriCares, could repair her condition.



Volunteer doctors and nurses from the International Organization for Women's Development arrived in February 2014, carrying more than \$20,000 worth of critical surgical supplies donated by AmeriCares. This trip was the 12th for IOWD at Kibagabaga Hospital and staff and patients were ready: As well as performing fistula repair surgeries, the IOWD doctors train the Kibagabaga staff each visit. "We want to establish an expanding core of trained Rwandan surgeons and health workers who can help prevent, diagnose and surgically repair fistulas," says surgery team leader Dr. Saifuddin T. Mama. On this trip, the team and staff screened 125 patients: 50 received surgery, the remainder were scheduled for future surgery or treated for other conditions. Patients also attended health education sessions as prevention of fistula is a goal.

This volunteer medical team is one of 1,100 that AmeriCares supplied with free medicines and supplies last year. Eighty percent of those teams educate local health workers during their visits; most return to the same facilities year after year. When IOWD visits next, Esther will return for follow-up care, but she is already experiencing relief. "I am happy now," Esther said. "I can do so many things."

Women are screened for life-changing surgery (top and above); these women are lucky as many infants do not survive the prolonged labor that creates fistula. Louisiana residents are grateful for donated medicines (right).

Your Donations Support U.S. Patients

When elderly Louisiana residents Elward and Betty could not afford their 20 monthly prescriptions, the Eunice Community Health Center safety net clinic was able to give them medicine for free, donated by AmeriCares. "We could never afford the medicines," says Betty.

Consistent, renewed support from donors allows AmeriCares U.S. Medical Assistance program to help low-income, uninsured patients throughout the country. Last year, hundreds of safety net health care clinics used our dedicated website to request enough medicine from AmeriCares to fill 1 million prescriptions.

"Without our medicines and supplies, patients might forego care and instead use the emergency room, an expensive option, when their health condition worsened," says Leslie McGuire, director of U.S. partnerships and programs. "Our clinics report that our donated medicines improve patient care and save clinics and patients money."

Donors of every type contribute to our U.S. program. Recognizing wide support and ongoing need, the GE Foundation is helping AmeriCares build capacity in the program, including improving our warehouse system, which processes more than 3,000 shipments a year for U.S. clinics.



From the President and CEO



Dear Friends,

January marked the anniversary of the 2010 Haiti earthquake that killed more than 200,000 people and, in a few minutes, changed thousands more lives forever.

With your generous donations, AmeriCares responded immediately with critical medicines and also pledged to stay and work with Haitian health organizations to build stronger, more resilient health services that will serve Haitians in emergencies and every day.

In February, I traveled to Haiti and met frontline Haitian health workers with whom we are creating innovative and lasting health improvements. With our Haiti team, I visited projects that your donations support, including the prosthetics center where I was honored to meet Herve, a young man who is now thriving after suffering traumatic injuries in the earthquake (at right).

In Japan, three years after the devastating earthquake, tsunami and ongoing radiation disaster (page 4), we are also working hand-in-hand with local health providers, ensuring that survivors get the help they need.

This responsive, collaborative ability is one of AmeriCares strengths, and we could not exercise it in more than 90 countries a year without the trust and support of donors like you, who make our work possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. J. Nyenhuis'.

Michael J. Nyenhuis
President and CEO

Giving a Father Hope in Rural Peru

Diabetes has haunted Jose since his father's early death from the chronic disease. So when Jose was diagnosed at an AmeriCares diabetes screening in rural Peru last March, the father of five vowed to protect his own health. At the screening, which was a joint project between AmeriCares and Peruvian health partners Peru-VIDA and Piura Fair Trade, doctors saw that Jose had a diabetic foot ulcer and sent him to the local hospital for a skin graft. There, Jose met patients whose legs and feet had been amputated because their diabetes had gone untreated. Once home, Jose attended AmeriCares-sponsored diabetes workshops to learn diet and lifestyle changes to keep the disease under control. Knowing all too well the toll diabetes can take, Jose asked if he could address the workshop. "These are my neighbors and colleagues; they know me and I would not like what has happened to me to happen to them," he said after his speech had left many in tears. Collaborating with our Peruvian partners and project sponsor Bristol-Myers Squibb, AmeriCares is evaluating this program to better understand what works in reducing the risk of diabetes and its complications in rural, low-income communities.



Photo courtesy of Peru-VIDA

Thanks to You, a Teenager Walks Again

When both of his legs were amputated after being crushed in the 2010 Haiti earthquake, 19-year-old Herve was given prosthetics that did not work well; he could not go to school or join his friends.



Then a health worker suggested Herve visit AmeriCares partner BRAC Limb and Brace Center, where Haitian technicians built prosthetics to fit Herve. He can now walk, ride a bike and even play soccer. "I'm not sad anymore," he says. "I feel like I have my real legs back."

With funds from donors, AmeriCares began support of the Limb and Brace Center in February 2013 when the operation faced closure. Now the center is growing, with close to 3,000 patients. AmeriCares also helped the center meet 40 percent of its annual income goal in four months. The goal is for the center to be independent in 10 years.

BRAC's services include physical therapy, which Herve enjoys. He will return throughout his life for adjustment and repairs to his prosthetics. "I want to thank BRAC and all the employees working there," says Herve.

Jose shared his story at an AmeriCares diabetes education session in Peru (top). Herve shows off the fitted prosthetics from an AmeriCares partner (above). See video of Herve telling his story at americares.org/BRACvideo

Partner in Profile: Mylan Inc.



When deadly Typhoon Haiyan swept through the Philippines in November 2013, the storm killed more than 6,000 people, devastated scores of communities and destroyed medicines — from personal supplies to entire pharmacy stocks. In response, generic and specialty pharmaceutical company Mylan donated enough medicine to fill more than 500,000 prescriptions and help thousands of Filipinos suffering from infections or struggling to control chronic diseases.



Photo by Matthew McDermot

“After major disasters it can take months before essential medicines are available,” said Kate Sears, AmeriCares senior vice president of global medical assistance and emergency response. “Mylan’s donation was crucial in our immediate response.”

Since 1991, the Pittsburgh-based global pharmaceutical company committed to setting new standards in health care, has donated more than \$325 million worth of product, which AmeriCares has distributed in 105 countries. “Mylan’s ongoing commitment to AmeriCares gives us the ability to provide consistent support to communities in need around the world,” says Sears.

Having a wide range of high quality medicines easily accessible enables health care professionals to adequately treat their patients. “Mylan’s donations are extremely valuable because their extensive line of trustworthy products gives clinicians the tools needed to alleviate symptoms, manage chronic conditions or cure acute diseases,” says AmeriCares Pharmacist Terry Conroy.

Voices from the Field: Philippines Disaster

By Kate Dischino, AmeriCares Emergency Response Manager

A week after Typhoon Haiyan, I was on a plane to the hard-hit Filipino island of Leyte to meet a shipment of our emergency medicines going to one of the few functioning hospitals in Tacloban. Then I drove through the city to see the situation firsthand — bodies were still being pulled from wreckage. I’ve seen destruction before, but never so much loss of life and I felt intensely how quickly our lives can change.

I asked survivors what they needed and if they could access medical care. In damaged hospitals and rural health centers in Samar and Leyte, I met doctors and nurses working through their own trauma: One doctor had lost 11 family members who had been gathered for a family party when the storm hit. I was glad to direct medicines and supplies to these struggling hospitals.

Now back in my office in Connecticut, I know AmeriCares contributions will help many for years to come. Already we’re working with local health partners to repair 22 local health clinics. I’d love to return to the islands to visit the brave survivors I was privileged to help.



Photo by Tom Tuiley

Four months after Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines, AmeriCares had provided more than \$14 million in aid (top). Emergency Response manager Kate Dischino in the field (bottom). See videos of our teams in action at: americares.org/HaiyanDelivery and: americares.org/HaiyanVillage. Donor Mary Theresa Stengel is pleased her gift will be matched (right).

Match Your Legacy Gift Today

Mary Theresa Stengel made AmeriCares the sole beneficiary of her estate knowing her gift would give beyond her lifetime. When she learned her legacy commitment was eligible for a match, Mary Theresa phoned in her request to participate in our Legacy Match Challenge, which matches 10 percent of each legacy gift with an immediate cash gift up to \$10,000.

“The Legacy Match gives my future gift a value today,” says Mary Theresa. “I can’t think of a better way to increase the impact of my giving and I hope others will do the same.” Mary Theresa was also impressed that two generous donors contributed the funds for the Match Challenge.

Mary Theresa cares for the inheritance her parents left. “This is the legacy my parents built and I want to do the best with it,” she says. “AmeriCares gets the most important work done with the most efficiency — you can’t get better than that.”

Contact us for details on our current Legacy Match Challenge: mmiller@americares.org or call 203.658.9634



Photo courtesy of Mary Theresa Stengel

Your Donations at Work in 61 Countries

With your help, between October 1 and December 31, 2013, AmeriCares sent medicines and medical supplies to the following countries:

Afghanistan	Colombia	Gabon	Jordan	Marshall Islands	Panama	Tanzania
Armenia	Costa Rica	Gambia	Kenya	Mexico	Peru	Uganda
Bangladesh	Dominican Republic	Ghana	Kosovo	Myanmar	Philippines	Ukraine
Belize	Ecuador	Grenada	Laos	Nicaragua	Romania	U.S.
Brazil	El Salvador	Guatemala	Lebanon	Niger	Rwanda	Uzbekistan
Burkina Faso	Eritrea	Haiti	Liberia	Nigeria	Senegal	Vietnam
Cambodia	Ethiopia	Honduras	Madagascar	North Korea	Sierra Leone	Virgin Islands
Cameroon	Fiji	India	Malawi	Pakistan	Somalia	Zimbabwe
China		Jamaica	Mali	Palestinian Territories	St. Kitts	

Japan



Photo Courtesy of Peace Boat

Indonesia: After Mount Sinabung erupted on Sumatra on February 13, 2014, ash and sand rained down for days, forcing evacuations. AmeriCares delivered masks and hygiene kits, pre-positioned in Indonesia for such an event.

Japan: Three years after the deadly earthquake, tsunami and radiation disaster in Japan, AmeriCares is using donations to help prevent illness and suicide among the 250,000 Japanese who remain in isolating temporary housing.

Haiti: In the four years since a 7.0 magnitude earthquake devastated Haiti, AmeriCares has delivered \$76 million in aid. Your donations are increasing local health capacity throughout the country.

Indonesia



Photo by © Sigit Pamungkas/Reuters

Haiti



Photo by Matthew McDermott

Annual Emergency Response Partners

Thank you to the following donors whose contributions help AmeriCares maintain year-round readiness for global emergencies:

- Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
- Boeing
- McGraw Hill Financial
- MedImmune
- ING U.S. Foundation
- OdysseyRe Foundation
- Anonymous




AmeriCares

AmeriCares is a nonprofit global health and disaster relief organization that delivers medicines, medical supplies and aid to people in crisis around the world and across the United States.

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